

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1669
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2493

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, CH, LY, TW
SUBJ: JALUD VISIT TO PRC

REF: PEKING 2461; PEKING 2473; TRIPOLI 1106

1. ACCORDING TO ARAB DIPLOMAT HERE, JALUD MET WITH ARAB REPRESENTATIVES OF PEKING'S DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AFTER HIS MEETINGS WITH TENG HSIAO-PING BUT ONE DAY BEFORE THE SIGNATURE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. AT THAT TIME, JALUD APPARENTLY GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT NORMALIZATION WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED ON THIS TRIP. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION WITH TENG. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, JALUD SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED THAT THE ROC BE PERMITTED TO RETAIN A CONSULATE IN TRIPOLI AFTER NORMALIZATION, BUT THAT THIS HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE CHINESE. ON THE OTHER HAND, JALUD REPORTEDLY SAID
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THAT THE CHINESE WERE WILLING TO ALLOW THE RETENTION OF A TAIWANESE TRADE OFFICE IN LIBYA.

2. THUS THE COMPROMISE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A LAST MINUTE ONE, WITH LIBYA DROPPING ITS INSISTENCE ON THE CONSULATE IN RETURN FOR A PRC WILLINGNESS TO FOREGO THE USUAL CLAUSE IN THE JOINT

COMMUNIQUE ENDORSING PEKING'S POSITION AS THE SOLE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CHINA.

3. DIPLOMATS IN PEKING ARE STILL SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY THE CHINESE WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE TO SUCH AN EXTENT WITH A MAVERICK REGIME LIKE LIBYA. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TWO REASONS, HOWEVER. ONE IS THAT NORMALIZATION GETS RID OF ONE OF THE ROC'S LAST OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. A SECOND IS THAT A PRC PRESENCE IN TRIPOLI MAY BE VIEWED IN PEKING AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR TURNING THE LIBYANS AGAINST SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE REGION. ARAB SOURCES HERE HAVE SAID THAT THE LIBYANS VIEW THE NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH PEKING AS A WAY OF PROVING TO THE SOVIETS AND THE WORLD THAT THEY HAVE SOME ROOM FOR MANEUVER. THIS IS, OF COURSE, ALSO IN THE CHINESE INTEREST.

4. NEVERTHELESS, MAJOR DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN LIBYA AND THE PRC. JALUD TOLD THE ARAB DIPLOMATS THAT TENG HAD REITERATED CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR THE SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE. JALUD ALSO REPORTEDLY REFERRED TO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "PROGRESSIVE" AND "REACTIONARY" THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, A DISTINCTION WHICH IS NOW ANATHEMA TO THE CHINESE. THE CHINESE MAY BE WILLING TO LIVE WITH SUCH DIFFERENCES, HOWEVER, IN THE HOPE THAT THE VOLATILE LIBYAN LEADERSHIP WILL EVENTUALLY TURN AGAINST MOSCOW. WOODCOCK

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